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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. FJN-070  
(3999/73)

#41/D  
4-4-01  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Yamaguchi, et al.  
SERIAL NO.: 09/202,455 GROUP NO.: 1646  
FILING DATE (U.S.) December 15, 1998 EXAMINER: Fozia Hamud  
TITLE: NOVEL PROTEIN AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE PROTEIN

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on November 7, 2000. Petition for a two-month extension of time up to and including Monday, April 9, 2001 is hereby requested. The appropriate fee of \$390.00 is enclosed herewith. Please charge any other necessary fees to Deposit Account Number 20-0531.

Applicants submit the following amendment and remarks.

AMENDMENT

In the Claims

Please amend claims 65, 69, 73, 77, 78, 81, 88, and 90 and cancel claims 68, 70, 71, and 83 as follows. ✓✓✓

65. (Once Amended) A purified and isolated Osteoclastogenesis Inhibitory Factor (OCIF) binding protein comprising a molecular weight of approximately 40,000 Daltons by SDS-PAGE, wherein said OCIF-binding protein promotes osteoclast differentiation and maturation.